Accelerated Second Degree Bachelors Track
Undergraduate Degree

The Vision of the College of Nursing is to be a force for innovation, learning and discovery in preparing culturally-proficient nurses for leadership in health for a global society.

Program Information

The Accelerated Second Bachelor's Track is a course of study designed for individuals with a non-nursing Bachelor's Degree who are interested in pursuing professional nursing. This is an outstanding full-time fast paced program that requires significant dedication and commitment. Students spend four to five days per week in the classroom and in clinical sites. Preparation for class and clinical is critical to succeed in this program. Outside employment is discouraged.

The program builds on the students’ previous education, experience, and required prerequisites. Lectures, case studies, group projects, seminars, clinical practice, simulated laboratory, independent study, multi-media, web-enhanced courses, and self-paced modules provide the foundation for an approach to nursing that is humanistic and scientific. Clinical practice is arranged under faculty direction with the cooperation of community agencies and healthcare facilities such as senior citizen centers, schools, ambulatory care centers, community hospitals, and medical centers, as well as clients’ homes.

Preparation for NCLEX® licensure

Completion of the program prepares the graduate for entry-level professional practice, to take the NCLEX-RN exam and to gain the academic foundation for graduate study in nursing. Students who satisfactorily complete the 57 residence credits will be awarded a Bachelor of Science Degree with a major in Nursing. This 17-month Track begins each August.
Admission Criteria

- A bachelor's degree in a field other than nursing from an accredited institution
- Official transcripts from all colleges attended (translations and approved evaluations are required, if non-U.S. schools)
- A grade of “C” or better in the following six pre-requisite courses:
  - a. Human Nutrition*
  - b. Medical Microbiology w/Lab or General Microbiology w/Lab*
  - c. Anatomy and Physiology I and II with labs (Can also be taken as Anatomy and Physiology, as long as there are two semesters of coursework in anatomy and physiology)*
  - d. Statistics
  - e. Human Growth and Development Throughout the Lifespan**
- Overall GPA in the six pre-requisite courses of B or better (3.0). All prerequisite courses must be completed by January 15th.
- Non-native speakers of English: An internet-based TOEFL (iBT) score of 80 or higher, a computer-based TOEFL score of 213 or higher, or an IELTS score of 6.5 or higher. Students who earned a bachelor's degree from a U.S. college or university may qualify for a TOEFL waiver, based upon undergraduate coursework.
- International students: To verify finances for visa processing, sponsor statement, and bank statement. See: http://www.umass.edu/ipo/iss/NSF.php
- Two professional references
- Submission of a resume
- The submission of the application form, fee, and essay
  - * These courses may be fulfilled through NLN Achievement Tests
  - ** This course may be fulfilled through CLEP, clep.collegeboard.org/exam

In addition to graduation, the Board of Registration in Nursing requires that students meet standards of “good moral character.” For further information, see their website at www.state.ma.us/reg/boards/rn.

The applicant is responsible for submitting a complete application for admission to the Continuing and Professional Education (CPE) Admissions Office by the deadline date. It is required that you submit the following together in one packet to CPE Admissions Office, 100 Venture Way, Suite 206 Hadley, MA 01035-9430:

- Application form
- Application fee
- Application essay
- Resume
- Sponsor and bank statements (international students only)

Reference letters may be submitted along with your application in unopened and sealed envelopes with a signature across the back part of the envelope. Reference letters may also be sent directly from the recommender to the CPE Admissions Office.

Official transcripts must be sent directly from all colleges attended to the CPE Admissions Office; unofficial copies or photocopies are not acceptable. TOEFL or IELTS scores (ESL applicants only) must be sent directly from the testing agency to the CPE Admissions Office. The CPE Admissions Office will acknowledge receipt of the application. However, applications that are not complete by the deadline may be withdrawn without admission review.
Selection Procedure

Applicants are ranked according to the strength of their qualifications, including GPA in prerequisite courses, essay, two professional references, and TOEFL (non-native speakers of English). A short interview (in person or via video conference) is required. The number of students admitted is limited to approximately 72 per admission cycle. Students will be notified by mail of their admission status approximately six weeks after the deadline date.

The Honors Program at the College of Nursing

The Departmental Honors program at the College of Nursing is designed to provide additional intellectual challenge and rigor for our most academically talented students. Through honors enrichment courses designed to complement the nursing and general education curricula, the student will develop an appreciation of the interdisciplinary nature of healthcare and the connection between theory and practice in the profession of nursing. Following coursework, students will work closely with a faculty mentor to complete a capstone experience on a topic of interest.

The Second Bachelor’s Track is revised in response to rapid advances in scientific technology, new trends in healthcare delivery, and evidence from nursing research. Refer to the College of Nursing’s website for the most up-to-date information: www.umass.edu/nursing

Clinical Experience

The College of Nursing provides the best possible clinical experiences for students, using a wide variety of in-patient, outpatient, and community sites (with day, evening, weekend, and night shifts used seven days a week). For this reason, public transportation or sharing transportation has not been workable as a means to get to the clinical agencies. Students must provide their own transportation to the clinical sites. For a list of some of the clinical sites used, check our website: www.umass.edu/nursing.

The clinical sites vary each semester depending on the availability of faculty and sites. Mandatory drug testing is required prior to every clinical experience.

Accreditation

The Nursing Program is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), a national nursing education accrediting body and approved by the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Nursing. In addition to graduation, the Board of Registration in Nursing requires that graduates sitting for the NCLEX-RN licensure exam meet standards of ‘good moral character.’ For further information, see their website at www.state.ma.us/reg/boards/rn for Rules and Regulations: Determination of Good Moral Character.

Mandatory Background Checks

Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) checks are required by many clinical agencies and will be completed by the College of Nursing on all students once they are admitted to the program. Progression in the program and placements in clinical agencies may be contingent upon a satisfactory CORI investigation.
Core Courses

This program starts in August and includes a Summer semester. There are at least two days per week of clinical experience in each of the first three semesters that can occur on weekends and on day, evening and night shifts. The Second Bachelor’s Track is a full time commitment with little room to accommodate personal schedules. The student may be required to rearrange other responsibilities to meet the demands of the program.

Program of Study (57 credits)

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<tr>
<th>Course Number</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Semester I (Summer)</td>
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<td>N100</td>
<td>Perspectives in Nursing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Semester II (Fall)</td>
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<td>N315</td>
<td>Health &amp; Physical Assessment</td>
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<td>Pathophysiology/Pharmacology in Nursing, Part I</td>
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<td>Pathophysiology/Pharmacology in Nursing, Part II</td>
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<td>Nursing Process: Clients w/Common Health Disruptions</td>
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<td>N407</td>
<td>Clinical Practice I</td>
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<td>Introduction to Nursing Research</td>
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<td>N436</td>
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<td>N437</td>
<td>Clinical Practice III</td>
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<td>N439</td>
<td>Community Health Nursing IV: Community</td>
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<td>N498P</td>
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<td>N326</td>
<td>Nursing Care of Children</td>
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<td>N327</td>
<td>Psychiatric-Mental Health Nursing</td>
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<td>N398F</td>
<td>Nursing Care of Children: Practicum</td>
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<td>N398G</td>
<td>Psychiatric-Mental Health Nursing: Practicum</td>
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<td>N498</td>
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COST INFORMATION

The Second Bachelor of Science Degree Track in Nursing is offered through the Division of Continuing and Professional Education under the auspices of the College of Nursing.

For further information on their registration procedure, please visit their website at umassulearn.net. For projected cost information, please see the College of Nursing website at umass.edu/nursing. The cost of the program is reviewed annually and tuition is adjusted with each new class.

FINANCIAL AID

Financial aid is available in the form of loans.

Information is available at: www.umass.edu/umfa

Additional aid opportunities:
- Grants
- Fellowships
- Traineeships
- Assistantships
- Minority student assistantships
- Employment opportunities

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